

enquiries

From: Emily Frikha <EFrikha@rutland.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 July 2023 15:11
To: enquiries
Subject: Parish/Town Grass Cutting

Good afternoon,

RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

I would like to update you on Rutland County Council's Grounds Maintenance contract and highlight some proposed changes as well as opportunities for Parish/Town Councils.

We have recently procured a new contract which is due to commence from 1st January 2024. Approval of the contract award is due for consideration by Full Council in July and subject to that approval, will be formally awarded in the summer.

What does this mean for the Parish Councils?

If you have been cutting the grass on behalf Rutland County Council (RCC) in the 2023 growing season, then you can continue to do so in 2024. If the grass cutting has been under the RCC contract in 2023, then you could choose to take this on from 2024.

What if you want RCC to cut the grass in your Parish?

If you want us to cut the grass in your Parish, we will cut all urban grass on highway verges, RCC owned public open spaces and closed churchyards, 6 times between late March / early April and the end of October. This is a proposed change from the current 10 cuts per growing season. The new contract with reduced number of cuts has been developed to take account of biodiversity and the outcome of public consultation.

What are the benefits of a Parish/Town Council taking on the grass cutting?

If a Parish/Town Council has opted to take on grass cutting of the urban highway verges, and/or the County Council owned public open spaces and/or the closed churchyards (where relevant), this can offer additional flexibility on how the service is provided. For example, you could choose to cut more frequently and/or collect the cuttings.

Whilst RCC monitors the grass cutting under our contract, a more 'local' focus by a Parish Council can enable closer monitoring of the standards delivered by contractors.

2024 payments

If you opt to continue, or take on the grass cutting in your Parish, RCC will pay the Parish/Town Council a contribution known as a 'Parish Payment'. Under the new contract it is proposed to increase the rate payable to Parishes at £0.03 per square meter. This provides an increase on the previous rate to cover increased costs. However the payment you receive may be lower overall than in previous years due to the proposed reduction in the number of cuts from 10 to 6 per growing season. To inform your decisions, figures are shown below:

Village	Urban grass	POS grass	Visits	Price per meter	Total grass contribution
---------	-------------	-----------	--------	-----------------	--------------------------

Oakham	63170	34084.46	6	£0.03	£17,505.80
--------	-------	----------	---	-------	------------

If you do not wish to change your current arrangement then you do not need to do anything. If you would like to either take on the grass cutting for your Parish, or you would like to hand back responsibility to the Council, then please contact us by 31st October 2024 so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

Please note that the information provided in this letter relates to grass cutting only. If your parish also carries out other grounds maintenance on behalf of RCC, we will discuss this with you separately.

Should you have any questions in relation to any of the information contained in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Frikha | Principal Operations Manager (Public Protection and Environmental Services)

Rutland County Council

Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP

t: 01572 722 577 | e: efrikha@rutland.gov.uk

www.rutland.gov.uk

Details regarding your data protection rights and how the Council processes your data can be found at: www.rutland.gov.uk/my-council/data-protection

Rutland County Council
Customer Service Centre: 01572 722 577

Visitor Parking Information & Map: <https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-community/parking/council-car-parks/>
Email Enquiries: enquiries@rutland.gov.uk
Council Website: <http://www.rutland.gov.uk>
Visiting Rutland? <http://www.discover-rutland.co.uk>

The views expressed in this email are those of the author and may not be official policy. Internet email should not be treated as a secure form of communication. Please notify the sender if received in error.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.